

XII. 11.

MINUTES
OF THE
THIRTY-EIGHTH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE
Savbury Baptist Association,
CONVENED AT
BETHEL CHURCH,
CHATHAM CO., GA.

On Saturday and Monday, November 15th and 17th, 1856.

SAVANNAH, GA.:
PURSE'S PRINT.

1856.

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Notice.

Members of the churches are earnestly requested to search for and forward
" to Lewis C. Tebeau, Savannah, Ga., " a minute of the Sunbury Association
for the year 1838, that the minutes may be complete and ready for binding,
in accordance with a resolution of the body.

Minutes.

BETHEL CHURCH, CHATHAM COUNTY. }
Saturday, Nov. 15th, 1856. }

The Sunbury Baptist Association, met at 11 o'clock this morning.

The moderator being absent, on motion of Bro. Winston, Bro. J. W. Rabun was called to the chair, and D. G. Swanston appointed clerk, *pro tem*.

The Bro. appointed to preach the introductory sermon, being absent, on motion of Bro. Winston, Resolved that the time usually devoted to that service, be spent in other religious exercises.

Letters from nineteen churches were presented and read. Proceeded to the election of moderator and clerk when Rev. M. Winston was elected moderator and D. G. Swanston clerk.

Appointed the following committees:

On Business, Brethren Daniel, Rabun and Theus.

On Religious Exercises, Brethren Hogg, R. H. Gould and S. A. Edwards.

On motion of Bro. Sweat, visiting Brethren T. U. Wilkes and W. I. Harley were invited to participate in the deliberations of the body.

After prayer adjourned to meet again at two o'clock P. M.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Association met, Preaching by Bro. Wilkes from Zech. iv c. and 6 v.

Business resumed, called for letters.

On motion of Bro. Daniel, the regular order of business was suspended in favor of a motion made by Bro. Sweat (which was carried,) that Bro. J. B. Dean be enrolled as a delegate from North Newport church without a letter.

On motion of Bro Sweat, *Resolved*, That the names of no delegates be enrolled on our printed records, but those in attendance.

Reports of committees, on business and religious exercises were made and adopted.

The following standing committees were appointed by the Chair.

On Finance, Brethren Rabun, Sweat and Theus.

On Nominations, Brethren Hogg, Fox and Geo. A. Keller.

On Treasurer's Report, Brethren Harmon, Thos. M. Keller and Rabun.

On Printing Minutes, Brethren Daniel, Tebeau and Sweat.

On State of Churches, Brethren, Sweat, Swanston and Hogg.

On Meeting Next Association, Brethren Harmon, R. H. Gould and Dean.

Called for correspondents, Brethren J. C. and S. A. Edwards, came forward and were welcomed as messengers from Middle Association.

After prayer adjourned, to meet at half past 9 o'clock A. M. on Monday.

Sabbath, Nov. 16. 1856.

The missionary Sermon was preached by Bro. A. Harmon followed by Bro. M. Winston, after which a collec-

tion was taken up amounting, to \$58,06. Preaching in the afternoon by Bro S. G. Daniel. During the day religious exercises were conducted at the stand, by the colored Brethren.

Monday, Nov. 17—1856.

Association met, minutes read and adopted.

Received and read letters, from North and South Newport churches.

Report of Executive Committee was read, in connection with a synopsis of Bro. Turner's labors as gleaned from his journal, and Bro. Harmon's report. See Appendix A and B.

After a few remarks from Bro. Sweat on the great importance of the subject, it was.

On motion of Bro Theus, *Resolved* that the report of the Executive committee together with their recommendation be adopted, and that a committee of three be appointed to devise means for raising funds for the support of our missions.

Appointed on that committee, Brethren Rabun, Hogg and Daniel.

Treasurer's report read and referred to committee on treasurer's report.

An opportunity being offered for agents present, to lay before the Association, the claims of their respective agencies, Rev. W. L. Harley addressed the body, in behalf of the Bible Board at Nashville.

On motion of Bro. Daniel, *Resolved* that the association take a recess of thirty minutes, to allow the friends of the Bible cause the opportunity of forming themselves into an associational Bible Society, auxiliary to the Bible Board at Nashville.

Adjourned to meet again in thirty minutes.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Association met, minutes read and adopted.

On motion of Bro. Sweat, Resolved that, the churches of this association be earnestly requested to carry out the objects of the Bible Board as recommended by their agent, Rev. W. I. Harley.

Appointed Correspondents, to Middle Association, Brethren Sweat, Winston, Daniel, and Harmon.

To Union Association, Brethren Daniel and Sweat.

Delegates to Baptist State Convention, Brethren Winston, Daniel, Sweat, T. B. Cooper, Moral, Rabun, Davis, Swanston, Hixon, Tebeau, and Bruner.

Appointed the executive committee, as follows, Brethren Winston, Daniel, Sweat, Harmon, Moral, T. B. Cooper, J. W. Rabun, Swanston, G. W. Walthour, Tebeau, Hogg, and Gignilliat.

Report of committees called for.

The committee on nominations, reported, that Brother M. Winston preach the Introductory sermon, A. S. Moral alternate; Brother S. G. Daniel, preach the Missionary sermon, T. B. Cooper alternate; D. G. Swanston write the circular letter.

Committee on meeting of the next association recommended that it be held with Second Baptist Church, Savannah, recommendation adopted.

Report of committee on Treasurer's Report, read and adopted, see appendix C.

Report of committee on State of Churches, read and adopted, see appendix D.

On motion of brother Daniel, *Resolved* that the Circular letter prepared be referred to the executive committee.

Report of committee on report of executive committee was read and adopted see appendix E.

In accordance with the suggestion made in this report pledges were received from the following churches: Savannah Baptist church \$100, 2nd Baptist church Savannah \$100, Bethel church \$40, 1st African Savannah \$25, 2nd African \$30, 3d African \$15, Oakland \$5, Abercorn \$10, Wilmington Island \$6, Branch church St. Marys \$6.

On motion of brother Sweat, *Resolved* That brethren Daniel, Rabun and Winston be appointed a committee to correspond with the Southern Board of domestic missions at Marion, Alabama, for the purpose of seeking a continuance of the \$500 appropriated by them to the St. Mary's Mission so as to enable this body to secure the services of a suitable brother to supply the place of our lamented brother Turner.

On motion of brother Hogg *Resolved*, That a committee be appointed to visit the planters, within the bounds of this Association, and lay before them the claims of their colored people upon them for the preaching of the gospel. And that their expenses be paid by the Association.

Appointed on that committee, Brethren Hogg and J. D. Gould.

Resolved, That the names and post offices of ordained and licensed ministers connected with this Association be hereafter inserted in the minutes.

Resolved, That we heartily recommend the "Christian Index" and "Home and Foreign Journal," to the patronage of the Churches, and urge upon them the duty of extending their circulation.

Resolved, That we heartily recommend "the Southern Baptist Publication Society" established in Charleston to

the patronage and prayers of every church, and of every individual in this Association.

Resolved, That the Constitution and By-Laws, be appended to the minutes of this session.

Resolved, That the thanks of this body be tendered to the members of this church, and community, for their attention and liberality during our meeting.

At the instance of Bro. Daniel after a few remarks upon the importance of the matter, a subscription list was opened, for the purpose of raising funds, to make up a deficiency necessary to settle with the Estate of Brother Turner deceased. The amount subscribed, was One hundred and six dollars.

After prayer by Brother Theus, adjourned, to meet again on Saturday before the third Sabbath in November, 1857, at second Baptist Church, Savannah.

M. WINSTON *Moderator.*

D. G. SWANSTON, *Clerk.*

Circular Letter.

*The Sunbury Association, to the Churches of which
she is composed.*

Dear Brethren :

In sending you this, our annual circular letter, permit us to address you on a subject of vital importance, to us all, " Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might." From such a precept, it is plainly to be seen, that the Divine Ruler, intended that we should perform faithfully all the duties committed to our hands,—diligently seeking the improvement, of those talents which he has graciously given us,—and endeavoring to show " ourselves workmen, that nee let not to be ashamed."

Let those of us especially who are Ministers, see to it, that we carry about us those evidences, which prove that the love of God is uppermost in our hearts,—showing that faith is shining brightly through every performance of duty, and that holy zeal is prompting us to fulfil the great and noble work of leading souls to Christ. Brethren ; let us not forget, that all our energies are necessary to this matter ; that after all we must come far short ; and be made to say, " who is sufficient for these things?" When we go up to our annual meetings, let us not, (as is too frequently the case) go up to enjoy a pleasant pastime--to discuss important matters, which when adopted, will be forgotten for years; but let us attend to these things, as matters of vital importance to the good of souls; remembering that " the night cometh when no man *can* work." The value of the soul is immense, and should lead us to study every indication of Providence, as to the manner, in which we may best succeed in leading men to the foot of the cross. Let us study the characters of those to whom we preach ; their circumstances ; and the subjects best suited to their wants. Let us understand *well* too what we are about living near to God ourselves, we cannot help having our hearts imbued with his love; with the greatness of the message; and the awful responsibility of its utterance; *So living*, we shall not seek popularity, but truth ; will not compromise the Gospel, but strive manfully " for the faith once delivered to the saints."

And what shall we say to the *private members* of our beloved zion? Brethren, whatsoever *your* hands find to do, do it with *your* might. Do you ask, how shall we carry out this precept ? we answer, you may do it in part, by encouraging your Pastor in a regular attendance upon his Ministry, *this* is of much greater importance than *you* may imagine ; it cheers and elevates his spirits; it assures him that he has a place in *your* confidence and affections, and consequently he studies with more diligence, prays with

more fervor, and feels that his labors will not be in vain; O! what strength and power does it give to a Minister, to see his people before him, and to believe that their prayers are going up to God for his success. Brethren, need we show you the contrary effect; Look at your Pastor when his preaching is neglected, when his people forsake thier own, to attend other churches; when other doctrines and other services are manifestly prefered; or when the weekly meetings are curtailed, to please those, upon whom the language of the pulpit falls with thrilling force, "*wo to them that are at ease in zion.*"

Ah! bretheren these things will discourage a pious pastor they will make him doubt as to his proper field of labor - doubt his call to the ministry, and it may be his christianity too. Reader is it so in your church? look well to it, and pray earnestly over it, that God may restore to his people the joys of his salvation. Again, have you done *your* whole duty to that young brother, whose conviction of duty may perhaps lead him to think of, and study for the ministry? Remember one cold look, one seeming slight, may excite apprehensions in his heart, the consequences of which you may not now see; be careful then for you may drive him away from fields ripe for the harvest, "*a Prophet is not without honor save in his own country.*" Again, do you encourage your deacons? They have the temporal affairs of the church on their hands, but still, it is your duty to aid and encourage them in their "*work and labor of love*" encourage one another, endeavor to, enlighten each other, and as God has blessed you with omnipotent knowledge even so, impart it to those around you, praying alway, and especially when going up to his holy Temple, that his spirit may be with you, to lead you into all truth, and make *your* worship acceptable, before God. But again, are there young converts in your church? You who have known the bitterness of sin, and have tasted the joys of salvation, should endeavor to watch and *pray* with them and build them up in the faith. Let them feel that you and they are one in Christ Jesus, and never let them have reason to think that the old members regard them with indifference or have no love for them, lest you create divisions in your midst, by angering the old against the young, and the young against the old; but live in peace, love and unity with each other, and whatsoever *your* hands find to do, do it, *with all your might,*

M. WINSTON, *Moderator:*

D. G. SWANSTON. *Clerk.*

Appendix A.

Report of Executive Committee.

Your committee beg leave to make the following report. They regret not being able to give a full and particular statement of the success and progress of the mission at St. Marys, under the direction of our late Brother J. W. Turner. A long and protracted illness has no doubt prevented the reception of his reports.

We believe however, that his labors have been blessed, not only at St. Marys, but at all other contiguous points, especially among the colored population. The following is a summary of his labors for two years, as gleaned from his journal, which has unexpectedly fallen into our hands.

Summary—Travelled.....2,460 miles.

Preached.....200 Sermons.

Delivered.....50 Addresses.

Attended.....60 Prayer Meetings.

Baptized.....100 Persons.

Ordained.....5 Deacons.

Within a few days, intelligence has reached us, that our Divine Master, has thought fit to remove him from his toils to the abode of the righteous, melancholy not to him but to his bereaved family and friends, in heaven we trust, his ransomed spirit lives in the presence of his Savior. He died in the service of his Master, a faithful Minister, and has no doubt received his reward... The report of your Missionary north of the Ogeechee, accompanies this report, see appendix B. The same zeal and faithfulness which has for so many years attended his labors, has suffered no abatement for the last season, which we trust

will result in the building up, and strengthening of the cause of Christ in those churches, to which his labors has been directed.

In surrendering to you the powers intrusted to us, we would respectfully suggest that some systematic plan be adopted by which, the funds could be raised, necessary to furnish the destitute hearts of this association with the Gospel. The present means employed are insufficient, and must end in failure, and consequently the abandonment of the missionary ground, now partially occupied. an event to be deplored by all who are acquainted with its importance. In conclusion we would recommend the adoption of the following resolutions.

Resolved, 1st. That while in the removal by death, of our beloved Brother Turner, late missionary to St. Marys, we feel constrained to bow with unquestioning subinission to the will of our Heavenly Father; that we still deeply deplore the loss of one, whose quiet and unobtrusive virtues, had so much endeared him to our hearts, and whose fidelity and ear nestness in the work of the ministry, gave promise of such usefulness and success.

2d. That we tender to his bereaved family our warmest sympathies and condolence in the great loss they have sustained; and heartily commend them to the care of him, who is the "husband to the widow" and the "father to the fatherless."

Appendix B.

Report of Brother A. Harmon, missionary north of the Ogeechee.

I would respectfully submit this my annual report as your missionary north of the Ogeechee River.

1st. Lords day is given to Abercon Church. This church continues an orderly christian church. Congregation large and attentive, and there are many enquiring the way to Zion. Baptized 19.

2d. Lords day is given to Skidaway Church. This church is in a confused state, arising in part, from many of its members having removed, and in part from others having been cut off; but more especially from the great indifference manifested by the whites towards the mission in the Island.

3d. is given to Oakland and other destitute churches. Oakland has improved in its condition, but has much to contend with. Baptized 9.

4th. is given to White-oak church, nothing of interest, the congregation large and attentive, Baptized 7.

5th Attended two Union meetings and two protracted meetings, nothing special.

I have been a missionary among the blacks for thirty years, and feel it my duty to retire from the field as your missionary for the ensuing year. You have young brethren who have been raised up of late, they are better able to do the work than myself.

Respe lly Yours in Christ,
November 15th, 1857. A. HARMON.

Appendix C.

J. W. RABUN, TREASURER, IN ACCOUNT WITH SUNBURY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

	Dr.	1855	Cr.
Nov 17.	To Balance on hand	\$21 40	Nov. 20th. Paid J. W. Turner
	Recd. for minutes	30 00	“ 21 \$125 00
“ “	Home missions	276 27	“ “ A. Harmon 150 00
“ “	Foreign do	44 05	June 21st. “ for minutes 32 00
1856	May 2d. Recd. from 2d. Bap.	44 05	Mch. 8. “ T. B. Taylor Foreign missions 50 00
	church Home mission,	100 00	May 7. “ J. W. Turner 75 00
July 31st.	Recd. from 1st. African ch.	14 33	August 1st. “ “ “ 75 00
“ “	“ 2d. “ “ 10 00		
“ “	“ 2d. Bap. ch. do. 10 95		
		<u>\$507 00</u>	<u>\$507 00</u>
			Savannah, Nov. 14th, 1856.

J. W. RABUN, Treasurer.

The above Report examined and found correct.

A. HARMON, Chairman.

Appendix I.

Report of committee on letters and state of churches.

Your committee in offering their report regret to say that they find the complaint of coldness prevails among churches, with a few exceptions. 3d. African church Savannah, and Abercorn church are enjoying a delightful refreshing season. Savannah Baptist church indulges the hope that the union which has been affected between them, and Brother S. G. Daniel will result in much good.

2d. Baptist church seems to be harmonious, and a steady increase of the congregation, is considered an indication of better things to come, which is fervently hoped for. Bethel church though blessed with few additions is grateful for that profound feeling of love, which seems to exist among themselves. Sunbury church after a year of sad destitution, are rejoicing having succeeded in engaging the services of Brother Hison. Among the other churches there seems to be noting of special interest.

F. R. SWEAT.

D. G. SWANSON.

JAS. E. HOGG.

Appendix G.

Report of Committee on report of Executive committee.

Your committee beg leave to offer the following report: We find that in order to carry on the Home missionary operations of this body, it is necessary that five hundred dollars be raised.

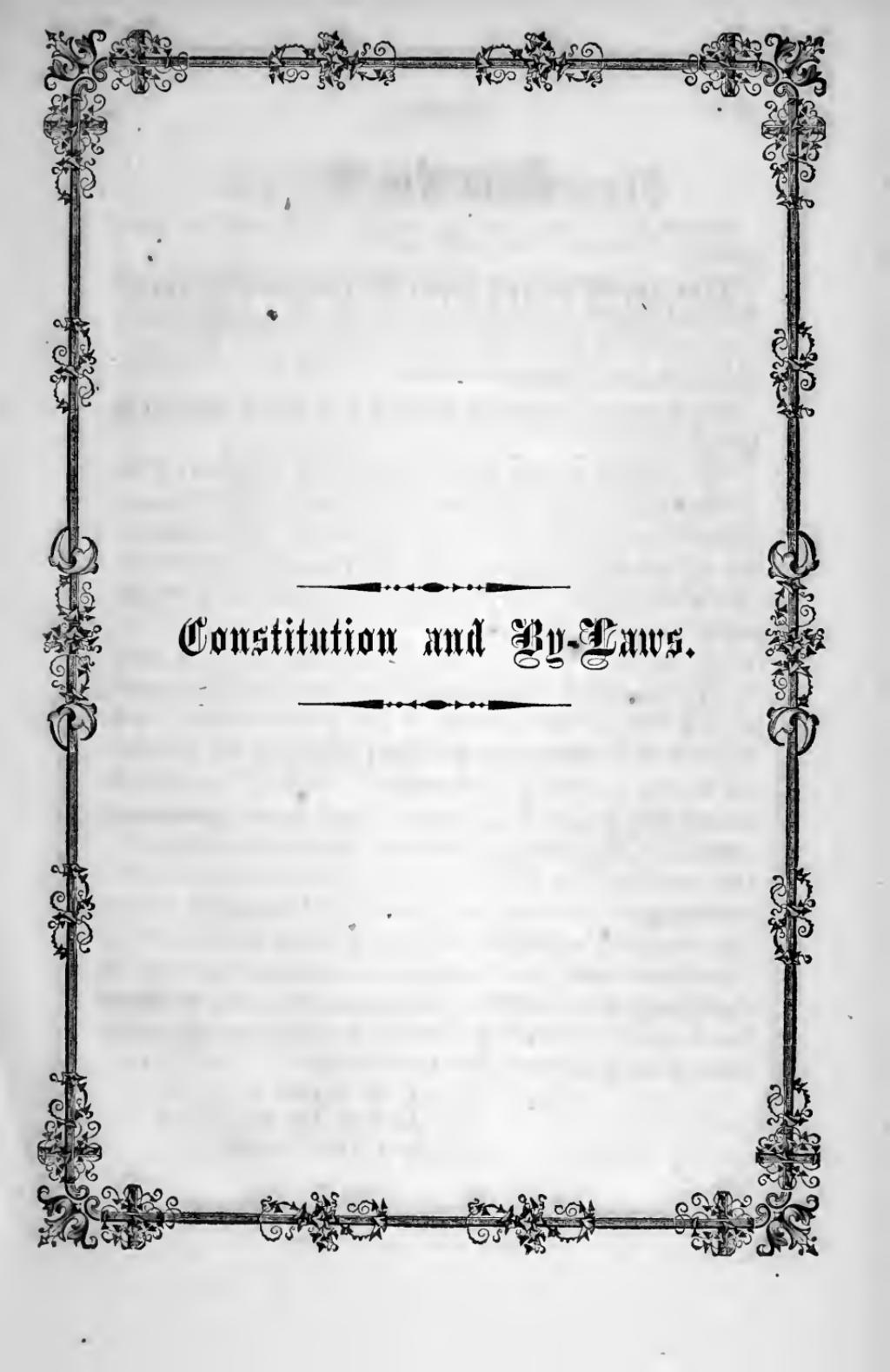
The question submitted to us is, how is this amount to be raised?

We suggest as the most feasible the following plan,

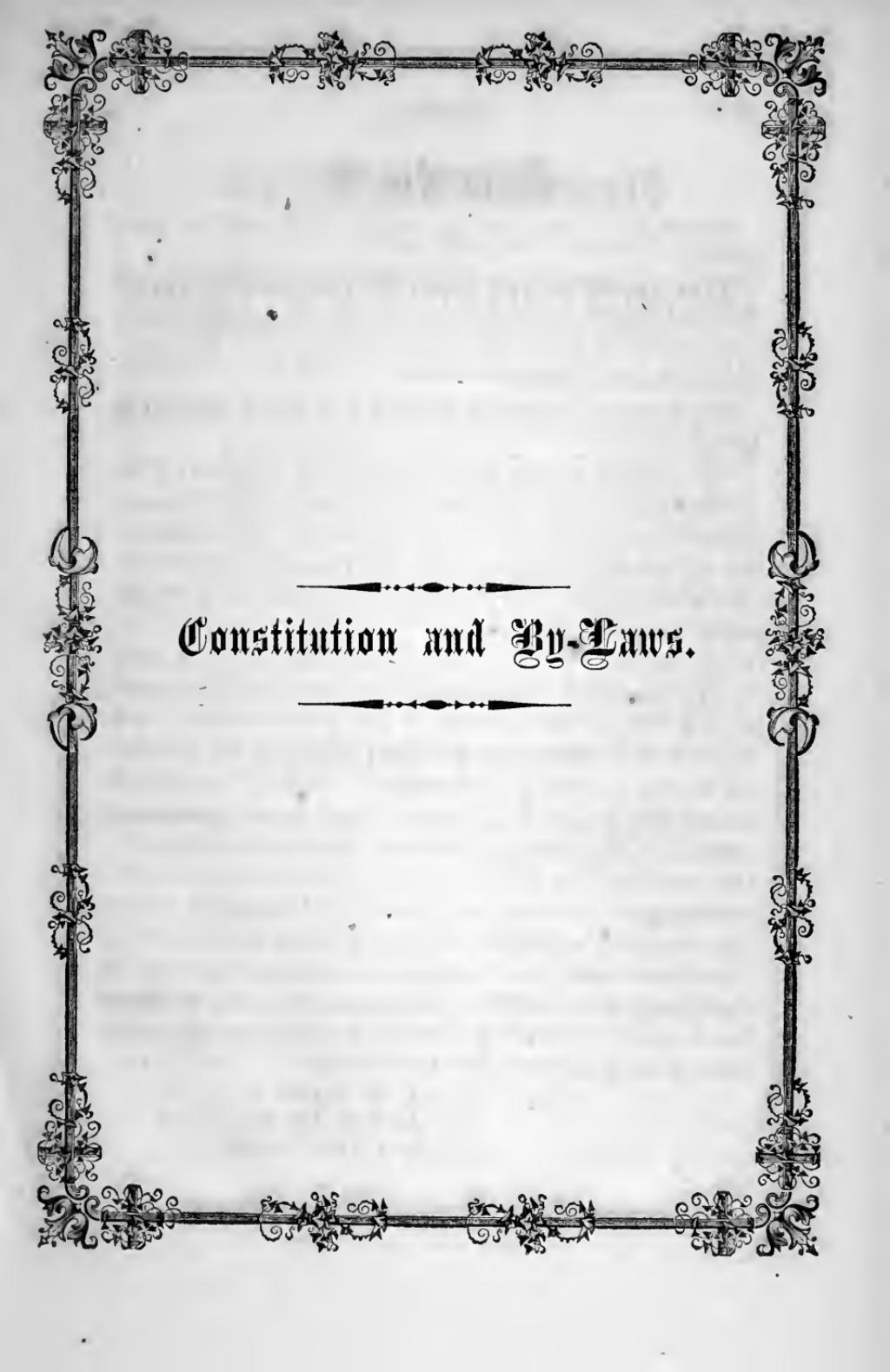
1st. Let the churches represented here, pledge through their delegates, the amount that each one will contribute for this specific purpose so that the Executive Committee may know upon what they have to depend, to meet the engagements they make.

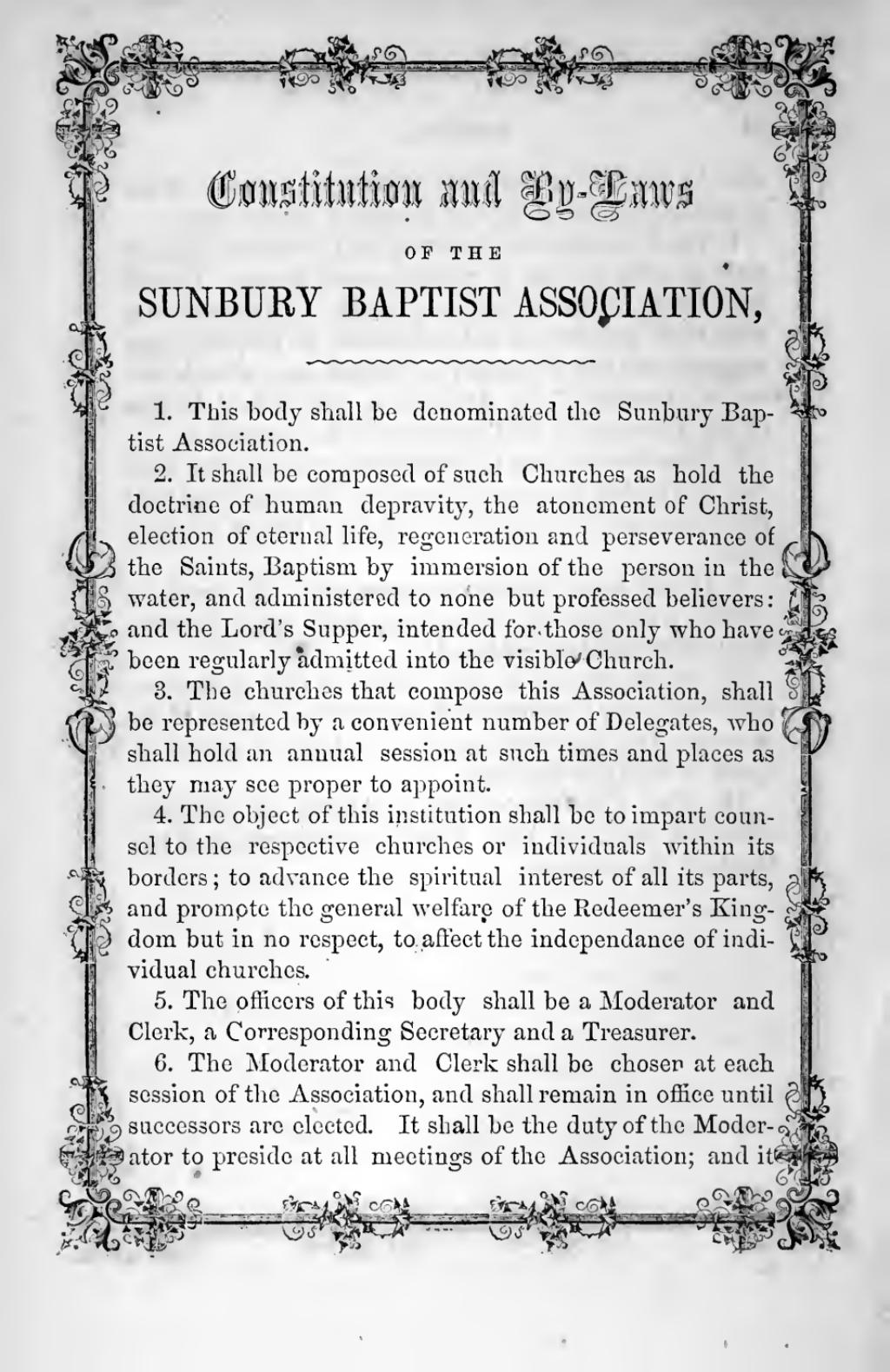
2d. that the Churches not represented at this session be addressed by the Executive Committee, who shall state to each church the amount of funds still needed, and urge an immediate response from them.... Your committee believe that the members of the Sunbury Association are not yet prepared to suspend their home missionary operations, thus leaving thousands of our colored population without the Gospel. They believe too that the Brethren do not expect the Executive Committee to pay the ministers employed without placing the means in their hands and hence regard it as morally right, that as churches, and as individual christians, we should let them know what *we will do*, to sustain and carry on the work that we have committed to their hands.

J. W. RABUN
JAS. E. HOGG.
S. G. DANIELS.



Constitution and By-Laws.





Constitution and By-Laws OF THE SUNBURY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

1. This body shall be denominated the Sunbury Baptist Association.
2. It shall be composed of such Churches as hold the doctrine of human depravity, the atonement of Christ, election of eternal life, regeneration and perseverance of the Saints, Baptism by immersion of the person in the water, and administered to none but professed believers: and the Lord's Supper, intended for those only who have been regularly admitted into the visible Church.
3. The churches that compose this Association, shall be represented by a convenient number of Delegates, who shall hold an annual session at such times and places as they may see proper to appoint.
4. The object of this institution shall be to impart counsel to the respective churches or individuals within its borders; to advance the spiritual interest of all its parts, and promote the general welfare of the Redeemer's Kingdom but in no respect, to affect the independance of individual churches.
5. The officers of this body shall be a Moderator and Clerk, a Corresponding Secretary and a Treasurer.
6. The Moderator and Clerk shall be chosen at each session of the Association, and shall remain in office until successors are elected. It shall be the duty of the Moderator to preside at all meetings of the Association; and it

shall be the duty of the Clerk to take an account of the proceedings of the body, and prepare it for the press.

7. The Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer shall remain in office as long as propriety may dictate. It shall be the duty of the former to maintain a correspondence with such institutions and individuals as propriety may suggest; and also to preserve a printed copy of such succeeding sessions of the Association, and it shall be that of the Treasurer to hold the funds of the institution.

8. Churches wishing to dissolve their connection with this body, shall be required to assign the reason of their retirement, after which, they shall be at liberty to withdraw.

9. It shall be an important object with this body, to exercise a fraternal correspondence with other Associations which shall be approved.

10. At the opening of each session of this institution, an introductory discourse shall be delivered by one of the members duly appointed, on some subject of special interest or utility to the body.

11. This Constitution may be altered or amended, whenever propriety may dictate, by concurrence of two thirds of the delegates.

By-Laws.

ARTICLE 1. The meeting of the Association shall be opened and concluded by prayer.

ART. 2. The letters from the constituent churches shall be read, and the names of the Delegates respectively enrolled.

ART. 3. A Moderator and Clerk shall be chosen by ballot.

ART. 4. Every motion properly made and seconded, shall be open for discussion.

ART. 5. No person shall be allowed to speak more than twice on the same question without special permission from the Moderator.

ART. 6. Every person who speaks, shall rise from his seat and address the Moderator.

ART. 7. All questions except those which relate to the alteration of the Constitution shall be decided by a majority of the members present.

ART. 8. All whispering, without permission from the Moderator, shall be considered disorderly.

ART. 9. No person shall leave the house, without leave from the presiding officer.

ART. 10. Ministers, Messengers from sister Associations, and other brethren present, shall be invited to assist in the deliberations of the body.

ART. 11. In all cases, a due regard shall be exercised for the feelings of the members.

ART. 12. After a motion for adjournment, the proceedings of the present session shall be read.

ART. 13. There shall be no adjournment of the body until a resolution to that effect has been regularly passed.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCHES.	DELEGATES NAMES.	POST OFFICE.	Printing Minutes.		36 19
			Foreign Mission.	Home Mission.	
Savannah Baptist,	S. G. Daniel, Jas. E. Hogg, B. T. Theus,	Savannah	238	37 00	3 00
Second Baptist,	M. Winston, F. R. Sweat, J. W. Rabun,	Savannah	103	50 00	3 00
First African Sav.	W. J. Campbell, Patrick Williams	Savannah	1129	10 00	5 00
Second African,	John Cox, Joseph Crawford Jeffcr. Johnson.	Savannah	1003	15 00	5 00
Third African,	A. Harris, S. Boles,	Savannah	223	223	2 00
Sunbury,	Letter,	Riceboro'	112	131	2 00
North Newport,	J. B. Dean,	Riceboro'	7	11	1 00
Great Ogeechee Af.	Letter.	Savannah	1	2	
Abercorn African,	Letter,	Savannah	8	11	
White Oak.	Letter,	Savannah	4	4	
North Salem,	George A. & Thomas M. Keller,	Savannah	3	3	
Bethel,	J. B. Norris, D. Swanston, R. Gould J. Fox,	Savannah	33	7 00	2 00
Darien	Letter,	Darien	33	120	1 50
White Bluff African,	G. Frazer, C. Murry,	Savannah	19	900	10 00
Skidaway do.	Letter,	Savannah	23	923	3 00
Oakland,	Cuffy Anderson,	Savannah	7	79	2 00
Waynesville	Letter,	Waynesville	77	1 50	1 00
St. Mary's African,	Robert Bachelot,	St. Mary's	77	76	50
Clifton	Quacco Potter,	Savannah	25	339	20 00
Wilmington African	Moses Gibson, William Pinder,	Savannah	4	250	3 00
Macedonia,	A. Harmon, Jno. Clark,	Bryan C. H.	4	67	67
Brunswick,	Letter,	Brunswick	1	11	5 00
			535	5773	6308
			115	122	205
			65	90 85	00
			15	338	

Names and Post Offices
OF
ORDAINED AND LICENSED MINISTERS
WITHIN THE BOUNDS OF THIS ASSOCIATION.

M. Winston,.....	Savannah
S. G. Daniel,	"
F. R. Sweat,	"
A. Harmon,.....	"
L. C. Tebeau,	"
G. H. Eaton,	"
A. S. Morall,	Darien
T. B. Cooper,	Waynesville
J. O. Hixon,	Sunbury
D. G. Swanston, Licentiate,.....	St. Marys

Colored Ministers.

John Cox,.....	Savannah
Wm. J. Campbell,	"
Garrison Fraser,	"
Wm. Rose,	"
Sam Boles, Licentiate,	"
Cuffy Anderson, "	"
R. Bachelot, " [.....	St. Marys